

# From Wall Street to Main Street Protests demand: Bail out the people!

By Betsey Piette

It was a strange sight on Wall Street. In the heart of U.S. finance capital, more than 100 activists from unions, housing, civil rights and other popular movements began a conversation with the U.S. working class from the steps of the Federal Building. The topics: capitalism and socialism.

On Oct. 24, after the credit collapse and bailout of the banks, their talks at the corner of Wall and Broad brought many to a halt. Wall Street workers listened, took literature, asked questions and pondered the crisis threatening life as they knew it.

The speakers represented a cross-section of progressive **New York**. City Councilmember Charles Barron explained how Michael Bloomberg had climbed up the “wealthiest person” ladder since becoming New York’s mayor; housing activist Nellie Bailey attacked landlord domination of local politics; Katrina-survivor supporter Brenda Stokely asserted that solidarity begins with the most oppressed; people’s lawyer Lynne

Stewart denounced capitalism; and Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) youth organizers LeiLani Dowell and Larry Hales mobilized for future struggles. They all had an audience.

A leader of women metalworkers in South Korea roused the crowd (see interview, page 9). Teresa Gutierrez from the May 1st Coalition for Immigrant and Workers Rights; Charles Jenkins, a leader of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; and Bernadette Ellorin from BAYAN-USA spoke on workers’ unity across all borders.

A group of Chinese visitors enjoyed photographing each other beside a Workers World sign that called capitalism the problem and socialism the solution.

Bail Out the People Movement organizer Larry Holmes opened the three-hour-long rally. Monica Moorehead gave an update on struggles to save death-row prisoners Troy Davis and Mumia Abu-Jamal. Media from Spain, France, Venezuela and local Spanish-language television interviewed participants and recorded the talks, which

included a message from a Philippines revolutionary to the U.S. working class.

In **Los Angeles**, the Labor/Community Coalition to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions held a “Bailout the Workers, Not the Bankers” forum on Oct. 25 at Hermandad Mexicana Nacional, which services the immigrant community and was an initiator of the historic March 25, 2006, demonstration for immigrant rights, and an Oct. 27 protest.

Rosie Martinez, executive board member and chair of the Latino Caucus of Service Employees International Union Local 721, addressed the forum about the need for unity and organization.

Chito Quijano, national chair of BAYAN-USA, explained the origins of the economic crisis and motivated for unity and action to make sure the fallout from the crisis does not all land on the shoulders of workers.

Coalition co-coordinator Martha Rojas told of her personal foreclosure experience. The forum demanded a moratorium both on

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WW PHOTO: ALAN POLLOCK

Detroit demonstration at Coleman A. Young Municipal Center on Oct. 27 demands that Mayor Cockrel declare a state of economic emergency.



WW PHOTO: SCOTT SCHAEFFER

Chito Quijano and Martha Rojas at Oct. 25 forum in Los Angeles.



Protest on Wall Street, NYC.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



Oct. 27 protest in front of the Federal Reserve Bank in Los Angeles. Gloria Saucedo and John Parker in foreground.

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June Reyno holds the chain she will use to defy eviction from her San Diego home.

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LOUIMA • BELL • • •

# Another victim of NYC police brutality

By Monica Moorehead  
New York

The police in U.S. society serve as an armed, occupying force—particularly in Black and Latin@ communities—similar to the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan. So it’s no coincidence that police brutality, including racial profiling and fatalities, is an everyday occurrence, especially in large urban areas from Philadelphia to Chicago to Los Angeles.

In terms of recent high-profile cases of this kind of repression, it would be very difficult not to put the sordid role of the New York Police Department, the largest police department in the country, very close to the top of the list. The most recent reported incident took place on Oct. 15.

Michael Mineo, a 24-year-old body piercer, has accused five New York police officers of raping him with an object resembling a police radio antenna in a Brooklyn subway station. An emotional Mineo recounted the events of that day to the media from a hospital bed in the Caledonian Campus of the Brooklyn Hospital Center on Oct. 25. “I was assaulted,” said Mineo. (Newsday.com, Oct. 26)

Mineo had spent four days in the hospital following the Oct. 15 incident, was diagnosed with “anal assault” and then released. A week later he was readmitted due to pain and blood in his urine, according to Mineo’s lawyer, Stephen Jackson. A police spokesperson confirmed that Mineo suffered a tear above his rectum, a bruise to

his head and abdominal injury, but then added that the police were not to blame.

The police claim that Mineo was caught smoking marijuana in the station and attempted to run away when they approached him. Mineo said he was attacked for no reason. The five officers involved in the incident are still on duty. Trying to somehow justify what happened, the police stated that Mineo had been arrested on five previous charges.

“Here we go again,” remarked Jackson. “Abner Louima, [Sean] Bell and now add to that list Michael Mineo.” (Newsday.com, Oct. 26) Louima is a Haitian immigrant man who was raped in 1997 with the broken end of a toilet plunger in a Brooklyn police precinct bathroom following a number of police beatings. The Haitian community and their supporters organized protests against this racist atrocity. Some of the cops involved were convicted.

Bell is an African American who was fatally shot by four NYPD members on the morning of his wedding in 2006 outside a Queens nightclub. The cops who killed him and wounded two of his friends were acquitted in May.

Rev. Al Sharpton, leader of the National Action Network and an organizer of the Justice for Sean Bell protests, visited Mineo in the hospital. Calling for a “fair, independent investigation,” Sharpton stated: “I do not know what happened. But I do know that we cannot allow police to be the only investigative body, and find that their findings should go unquestioned and unexamined.” (New York Times, Oct. 26)□

## Ten years after James Byrd

# Black man dragged to death in Texas

By Larry Hales

Brandon McClelland’s dismembered body was found Sept. 16 in the middle of a Paris, Texas, road. Three days later, according to the young Black man’s mother, bits of his skull could still be found on the road where he died.

The 24-year-old man was killed by two white men, Shannon Keith Finley and Charles Ryan Crostley, who are alleged to have been friends of his. The white men ran Mr. McClelland down with their truck and dragged his body more than 40 feet.

According to the story of the two white men, they had an argument with McClelland after having driven across Texas/Oklahoma state lines to get beer. When Mr. McClelland got out of the car to walk home, the two white men ran him down with their truck, trapping and dragging his body in the undercarriage.

The murder is similar to the lynching of James Byrd Jr., who was tied to a truck by his ankles and dragged for miles by three white supremacists. That incident occurred in Jasper, Texas, on Sept. 16, 1998—10 years, to the day, of McClelland’s death. Jasper is about 200 miles south of Paris.

The lynching of Byrd sparked an international outcry and many protests. It thrust the New Black Panther Party into the spotlight, when the group announced a march through Jasper to defend the Black community there against a threatened march by white supremacists.

Paris authorities have asserted that the killing had nothing to do with race. Stacy McNeal, the Texas Ranger in charge of the investigation, said, “I don’t see how it was racial, being as how they were good friends.”

However, McClelland’s family, Black residents of the town and activists with the New Black Panther Party, the Nation of Islam, the NAACP and the Millions More Movement believe differently.

The killing occurred around 4 a.m. on Sept. 16, and initially it was declared a hit and run. According to a Free Speech Radio report, authorities told the McClelland family that a gravel truck had killed Brandon. Crostley and Finley had tried to cover up the incident by washing the blood off their truck and hiding it from sight.

It appears to many that not only were Crostley and Finley trying to cover up their malicious act, but that local and state authorities want to hide the reality of life for the small Texas city’s Black inhabitants.

It wouldn’t take a lengthy search to uncover the racism that exists in Paris. In 2006, a 14-year-old young Black woman named Shaquanda Cotton was handed down a juvenile court sentence that could have led to her spending seven years in detention for pushing a hall monitor. Many juxtaposed Cotton’s sentence to that of a young white woman, whom the same judge sentenced to probation for burning down her family home.

McClelland’s family and activists will continue to fight for justice and that the men responsible for his death be charged with a hate crime.

Jacqueline McClelland, Brandon’s mother, was questioned by the district attorney’s office as to why she spoke with Jesse Muhammad, a writer for the Final Call, who broke the story. Ms. McClelland told Muhammad: “I have lost my son. What do I have to lose now? I am going to keep on pushing. I want justice.”□

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# Death penalty opponents say system is broken, executions must end

By Gloria Rubac  
Houston

As execution numbers rise in Texas, so does the determination to end all executions. Families of death row prisoners and community activists joined opponents of the death penalty on Oct. 25 for the 9th Annual March to End Executions in Houston.

The lively percussion of the Free Radicals Marching Band accompanied the spirited march. As they arrived at the SHAPE Community Center, there were chants of “Death penalty? Shut it down! Huntsville? Shut it down! Executions? Shut it down!”

Clarence Brandley, who was freed from Texas death row in 1990 after a 10-year struggle proved his innocence, was the featured speaker. “I wouldn’t be here today if it wasn’t for people like you standing up and not giving up. I came within hours of execution two times, but today I am here with you. Never stop the fight! Never give up! We can win!” Brandley said to the cheering crowd.

A revolutionary tone was set for the day by the words of solidarity sent by those locked in steel cages. Margaret with the Rice for Peace and Justice student group read a



Clarence Brandley.

message from Bomani Shakur, who is on death row in Lucasville, Ohio. A statement from Panthers United for Revolutionary Education on Texas death row was also read. (See accompanying articles.)

Words written by Gabriel Gonzales with the DRIVE Movement on Texas death row were read: “Prison issues are class issues—the rich exploiting the poor for economical gain. The insidious crippling of our poor, our young people on death rows and prisons is expanding and none of this is about the rate of crime. It is about capitalism, it is about racism and classism.”

Abolitionist Ester King read a strong message to support Troy Davis in Georgia from Kenneth Foster, who won commutation of his death sentence hours before his Aug. 30, 2007, execution was to take place. A strong, popular movement forced



this victory. March participants signed birthday cards for Foster.

Hearts and minds were filled with emotion as well as information when a dozen families of death row prisoners took the stage.

Delia Perez Meyers said that her brother, Louis Castro Perez, was innocent, and even though he had just lost a round in court, his family continues to fight to win his freedom.

Sonya Chavez spoke for the large family of Melissa Lucio, who was sent to death row in August. Lucio is one of 10 women on death row in Texas. Her family, who drove from Harlingen, Texas, wore tee shirts with her photo.

Eric Cathey is scheduled for execution on Nov. 18, despite strong evidence of innocence. His sister, Shelicia Cathey, spoke about the injustice in his case.

Alisha Joshlin spoke fondly about her fiancée Willie Pondexter and the terror of waiting for his March 3, 2009, execution date. With tears streaming down her face, she asked for help and support.

Four families from the Rio Grande Valley rented a van and drove to Houston together. Their loved ones had all been sent to death row under the Texas Law of Parties, which allows a person who was not even at the scene of a crime to be put to death. After stopping the execution of Kenneth Foster in 2007 and winning a stay for Jeff Wood in August, activists plan to fight this law until it is taken off the books.

Marisol Ramirez spoke for her husband, Juan Raul Ramirez; and Sylvia Garza, with her daughter hugging her, spoke for her son, Robert Garza. With tears streaming, Janie Medrano said she can no longer tell

her 7-year-old son that his daddy, Rudy, will be home soon. Lydia Garza spoke for her son, Humberto Garza. All four families had banners with their loved one’s photo on them and a demand for the end of the Law of Parties.

Howard Guidry’s appeal will be heard on Oct. 29. His spouse, Regina, urged people to be in Austin to support Guidry, an innocent man who was sent to death row after Harris County detectives coerced a false confession from him.

A highlight of the day was the participation of Kids Against the Death Penalty, formed by Jeff Wood’s daughter Paige and his nieces and nephews last spring. They participated in a highly public campaign for Wood, who won a stay of execution on Aug. 22. Gavin Been spoke for KADP. Speaking for Wood was Terry Been, his brother-in-law, friend and active supporter.

The last juvenile sent to death row in the U.S., before the Supreme Court outlawed the execution of those under 18, was Robert Acuña of Houston. His mother, Barbara, told of the relief of not waking up every day knowing that the state was going to murder her son.

Before Joseph Nichols was executed on March 7, 2007, he had his mother promise him that, through her, he would continue to be part of the fight against capital punishment. Lee Greenwood spoke at the rally about Joe being executed, even though he hadn’t killed anyone. She has always kept her promise to her son. □



WW PHOTOS: GLORIA RUBAC

Regina Guidry, spouse of Howard Guidry. Standing next to her is Shelicia Cathey, sister of Eric Cathey, set for execution on Nov. 18.

## Death row inmate’s message

# ‘Power to the people! Shut it down!’

The following excerpts are from a powerful, moving statement written by Harvey “Tee” Earvin, a political prisoner and founding member of Panthers United for Revolutionary Education (PURE), a group of inmates on Texas death row. The statement was read Oct. 25 at the 9th Annual March to End Executions sponsored by the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.

First off, PURE expresses our gratitude. We thank you for coming out today! There is no feeling of greater euphoria than that which arises from standing with the people—a people whose numbers are mighty and whose demands are as headlong as rushing waters unable to be turned around by ANY opposition.

We stand with you today in spirit, but, mind you, a spirit unbroken, even though for years we have lived in the waiting rooms of the killing chambers, where the thought of death and dying are constant and abusive living conditions a daily reality.

In the aftermath of the Baze decision, wherein the Supreme Court approved the protocol of lethal injection, Texas is fast back to business as usual: snuffing out life with distressing ease. While we are here to protest these unconscionable deeds, the end to this capitalist system is our great need.

State-sanctioned murder is part and parcel of the overall prison-industrial complex; the prison-industrial complex is part and parcel of capitalism. And under capitalism we are ALL victims of some description—we may be homeless, jobless or a wage slave, a prisoner, a worker or a borrower.

The \$700 billion push to bailout predatory lenders, a.k.a. capitalist crooks, at the expense of the working people clearly points to whose interests are represented under this system.

Not long ago, my daughter, who is mentally challenged, single with three children and on disability, was literally without food. Her measly disability check doesn’t carry her the full month because she’s still on the waiting list for low-income housing. So she turned to me—her father on death row with nothing! I tried to send her what food from the commissary I had, only about \$10 worth, but I was told I could not do that. It’s against prison policy to send out perishable goods, even to a needy family. Hurt, I turned to my sister, who is unemployed after having been laid off from work after an auto accident.

Such are the faces that we see in the news stamped “LAZY”; the faces used when they want to cut needed programs. There are millions of dollars available to try capital cases and to put people in prison or to death, but not a nickel available to feed a hungry child.

“Adjustable-rate mortgage payments are going up,” says Comrade Fred Goldstein in his front-page article in the Oct. 2 issue of Workers World newspaper. “The cost of living is skyrocketing and the economy is shrinking—leaving workers fewer jobs and smaller paychecks.”

How might this bailout money be used? Well, the comrade answers that question, too. “It could be used to pay for universal health care, affordable housing, affordable education, daycare, job creation, and other basic needs.” And to this, we in PURE add: For the prisoners, we too call for education, rehabilitation and job creation for the nation within this country of over 2 million people under lock and key. And we demand capital help instead of capital punishment!

Freedom from the system of capitalism! Freedom for us all! Freedom for us all! Freedom for every pauper on the street and every slave behind the wall! □

## Lucasville 5 prisoner:

# ‘We are winning’

Following is a message from political prisoner Bomani Shakur, one of the Lucasville Five, read at the 9th annual March to Stop Executions in Houston. Visit [workers.org](http://workers.org) for more information on the Five.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As the year comes to a close, my hope is that all of you know that we are one step closer to victory. As the light continues to shine on those who oppose freedom and justice and show them for who they truly are, it’s becoming clearer and clearer that our only option is to stand up and speak truth to power.

Whereas before we were isolated by what seemed to be our own individual struggles, it has been made known that our every obstacle issues from the same source. The greed and corruption on Wall Street, the war in Iraq, the death penalty, sky-rocketing unemployment and poverty—it’s all an extension of free-market capitalism, an economic ideology that pits the haves against the have-nots.

Poor people all around the world are screaming out for justice and demanding that business as usual is no longer allowed. As we join them today with our own collective scream, let us make it known that we are united and excited about the future, that we have seen the light and are prepared to fight to the finish.

There’s an old saying: “The only thing needed for evil to triumph is for good people to stand by and do nothing.” Well, you are the good people, and the fact that you are standing there “doing something” is a sure sign that we are winning. Onward. ...

Your brother in solidarity,  
**Bomani Shakur**



Bomani Shakur



# Stolen Lives rally: ‘Jail killer cops! Stop racist police brutality!’



Juanita Young, above; Margarita Rosario, mother of Anthony Rosario killed by NYPD, right.



“I will not be silenced. Until people can walk the streets without fear of rogue police, I will continue to advocate on behalf of stolen lives!” said Juanita Young today at a Harlem rally and march called by the Oct. 22 Coalition. Young is a legally blind Black grandmother who just last week beat six

frame-up charges filed against her by the Bronx, N.Y., police. (Workers World, Oct. 24)

Ever since her 23-year-old son Malcolm Ferguson was killed by the police in 2000—Ferguson was unarmed and without any legal violation—Young has been a relentless voice against police brutality. Many times she has faced threats and physical attacks by racist forces.

Today Young was one of too many speakers—mostly Black or Latin@ parents—who have lost sons and daughters to police murderers. These parents and supporters united to build a coalition in 1966 to have an annual protest to expose the epidemic of police brutality. They work on the Stolen Lives Project, which documents cases of murders by law enforcement agents throughout the country. For further information, contact [info@October22.org](mailto:info@October22.org).

No justice, no peace!

—Report and photos by Anne Pruden

## Racist Sheriff Joe Arpaio invades City Hall, terrorizes janitors

By Paul Teitelbaum  
Tucson, Ariz.

At approximately 2 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 16, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio unleashed a fully armed, combat-ready, 60-person contingent of SWAT team personnel and volunteer posse on the Mesa, Ariz., City Hall. Armed with semi-automatic weapons and attack dogs, the strike team descended on the city’s municipal complex.

What dire emergency was Sheriff Arpaio responding to? Was the complex under attack? Were there bomb threats or threats of violence? Perhaps the mayor was being held hostage and a ransom being demanded?

Nothing so sinister was underway. Inside the complex were contracted janitorial workers, mostly people of color, who were diligently performing their usual low-paid tasks of mopping floors and emptying trash cans. This was the activity that warranted a full-scale assault by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office and Posse.

The attack, which took place without the knowledge of any Mesa City official, was another in the long list of racist sweeps

against Arizona’s Latin@ community. For months prior to this particular terrorist attack, Arpaio, his deputies and his volunteer posse have been sweeping through Latin@ neighborhoods, stopping people, asking for identification and arresting those who failed to produce any. In April Arpaio invaded the small Latin@ town of Guadalupe, Ariz., where he was met with protests from both Mayor Rebecca Jimenez and the town’s population.

Although most states have repealed the use of a sheriff’s posse, Arizona still allows a county sheriff to “conscript any able-bodied male eighteen or older to assist him in keeping the peace or to pursue and arrest a felon.” (Wikipedia) The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Posse is an all-volunteer, racist militia trained by the sheriff’s office to participate in community sweeps and arrests that target Latin@ areas. Posse members are Arpaio’s personal goon squad whom he arms and directs against the Latin@ community.

On Oct. 22 a federal judge ruled that Arpaio’s jails violate the U.S. Constitution and ordered the sheriff to provide decent food, health care and sanitary conditions to those awaiting trial. (New York Times, Oct.



Guadalupe, Ariz., protest, April 3.

23) Maricopa County has paid out \$43 million in private lawsuits against Arpaio.

Arpaio is running for a fifth term as sheriff of Maricopa County. If elected, “Sheriff Joe” plans to continue his policies, build his posse and encourage other racist groups like the Minutemen. He told Lou Dobbs in an interview that “being called the Ku Klux Klan is an honor.”

Arpaio may win the election and attempt to continue his war against Latin@s, but many people have had enough and are organizing to fight back. The slogan

“Sheriff Joe has got to go!” is being heard more and more. The attempt to divide people and scapegoat Latin@s will not work, as the unfolding economic crisis makes clear that the problem isn’t documented versus undocumented or white workers versus people of color.

The problem is the capitalist system, which is attempting to pit worker against worker in a futile attempt to maintain its grip. Along with Sheriff Joe, the people are starting to realize that “Capitalism has got to go!” □

## Michigan workers tell La-Z-Boy:

# ‘Say NO to racism, don’t buy Moncure Plywood!’

*Organizers of the recent U.S. tour of Latin American union leaders (see [workers.org](http://workers.org)) learned from striking members of International Association of Machinists Local W369 at Moncure Plywood in North Carolina that La-Z-Boy Furniture, headquartered in Michigan, was buying wood products made by strikebreakers. La-Z-Boy management was shocked when the following letter was hand-delivered during a midday informational picket of their global headquarters in Monroe, Mich.*

Oct. 23, 2008

To whom it may concern:

La-Z-Boy Furniture is purchasing wood products from Moncure Plywood near Raleigh, North Carolina. The workers at Moncure Plywood have been on strike since July 20, 2008.

By continuing to buy products made without the skilled and long-time workers who are on strike, La-Z-Boy is helping to:

- Force workers to work 60 hours per week.
- Change seniority to allow favoritism, discrimination and racist practices by management.

- Use racism to divide African-American and Latin@ workers.
- Increase health insurance payments by 300 percent.

- Allow unsafe working conditions: cutting machines with no guards, holes and water on floors near dangerous machines, and too much dust that can cause explosions. Moncure was fined \$37,000 for safety violations last year.

As part of a national tour by Latin American union leaders, we joined the workers on the picket line at Moncure. The workers at Moncure want to secure their rights to a decent job and to work with dignity.

**We told their story in 12 cities and are now calling on La-Z-Boy to do the right thing—tell your supplier, Moncure Plywood, to come to a just settlement with IAM Local W369. Stop buying Moncure wood products until they do it! We await your reply.**

**For the Labor Exchange,  
Ignacio Meneses  
Cheryl LaBash**

## San Francisco protests immigrant raids

Protesting flagrant violations of immigrant worker rights, several hundred people organized by May 1st San Francisco, Movement for Unconditional Amnesty and Latin American Alliance for Immigrant Rights noisily demonstrated during the evening rush hour at the local office of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement in downtown San Francisco on Oct. 23.

The previous day, about two dozen homes were raided throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, including the Mission, Tenderloin and Bayview districts within the city of San Francisco, in South San Francisco and in the East Bay city of Richmond.

Despite the status of San Francisco as a “sanctuary city” for immigrants without documentation, San Francisco police assisted federal immigration agents in the arrests of several people. Claiming the raids were necessary to apprehend

members of the Latin@ “MS-13” street gang, authorities said they were part of ICE’s “Operation Community Shield.” In Richmond the SWAT team was used.

However, family and friends of the still-detained immigrant workers told the assembled crowd and media that their arrested loved ones were absolutely not involved in gang activity. Organizers of the emergency protest said this harassment and persecution of undocumented workers will not happen without a response.

Cindy Sheehan, candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi’s seat in the U.S. Congress, added her support for the full citizenship of all people working in California. Already planned is another immigrant rights demonstration in San Francisco on Oct. 27, part of a National Day of Action against racial profiling in Arizona.

—Joan Marquardt



**ON THE PICKET LINE**  
by Sue Davis

**SAG votes to reopen negotiations**

The board of directors of the Screen Actors Guild voted Oct. 19 to call in a federal mediator to jump-start negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. SAG rejected AMPTP’s final offer Aug. 21 because of two issues: use of nonunion actors on Internet productions costing less than \$15,000 a minute and no residuals (payment) for work used in new media. The board also voted to send out a strike authorization referendum to members if new negotiations do not produce a fair contract. (Guild news release, Oct. 19)

**Milwaukee layoffs opposed**

Chanting “No more cuts,” several hundred Milwaukee County workers rallied Oct. 15 against proposed layoffs of 339 maintenance, food service, housekeeping and building trades workers. The county executive wants to replace members of State, County and Municipal Employees’ District Council 48 with lower-paid, nonunion employees of private contractors. The union vows to fight privatization. (Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Oct. 15)

**Workers win two settlements**

What do immigrant Chinese deliverymen at Saigon Grill restaurants in Manhattan and waiters, massage therapists and yoga instructors at luxury Canyon Ranch Spa in Lenox, Mass., have in common? The workers, who were stiffed out of wages or tips, just won million-dollar settlements. On Oct. 21 a federal judge awarded \$4.6 million in back pay and damages to 38 delivery workers based on blatant, systematic violations of minimum wage and overtime laws. Workers who were paid \$520 a month for 260 hours of work—less than \$2 an hour—are now eligible to collect up to \$382,000 each, thanks to a suit brought by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. An advocacy group for immigrant workers, Justice Will Be Served, told the New York Times, that as a result of the case, “many restaurants have already started to pay their deliverymen much better.” (Oct. 22)

In one of the largest employee discrimination cases in Massachusetts history, Canyon Ranch Spa agreed to pay \$14.75 million in unpaid tips to hundreds of employees who worked there from April 2004 to October 2007. The spa, which assessed an 18 percent service charge on all bills, told patrons that meant they didn’t need to tip, but then didn’t pass even a penny on to the workers. That violates a Massachusetts law that all services charges, gratuities and tips must be distributed to employees, including those who work outside restaurants. (New York Times, Oct. 24)

**CWA sues AT&T over ‘shell game’ contracts**

On Oct. 23 the Communication Workers filed a lawsuit against AT&T Inc. and 29 of its major subsidiaries “in an attempt to halt the company’s use of corporate shell games to avoid contractual obligations to CWA and its members.” (CWA news release, Oct. 23) The lawsuit charges that the company is using consolidations and reorganizations to reassign workers in ways that threaten members’ contractual wages, benefits, seniority and working conditions. Charging that every major subsidiary is really an “alter ego of AT&T,” the lawsuit demands that AT&T be required to negotiate all issues that fall under its subsidiaries’ agreements. □

**A case for workers' control**

**Can workers stop the illegal sale of Chrysler?**

By Martha Grevatt

While rumors continue to swirl, workers at General Motors and Chrysler hunger for concrete information concerning the possible sale of Chrysler, the number three U.S. automaker, to GM or some other entity.

They’ve heard not a peep at GM, but at Chrysler have received two “messages from our leader,” CEO Bob Nardelli. In the latest, workers were informed that they were in “truly unimaginable times” but that “working as a team, we have been right-sizing our organization to become as competitive as possible.” Therefore, more than 25 percent of salaried positions—that’s 5,000 jobs—are being terminated “in a socially responsible way, with respect and gratitude to those who have contributed so much to our company over the years.” What bull!

The salaried cuts were announced just days after workers in Newark, Del., learned that their plant would be closed at the end of this year, a year ahead of schedule. Whole shifts are being cut at assembly plants in Toledo and Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Are these aggressive moves to make the company leaner and more attractive to a prospective buyer?

Eager for some definitive word, the Phoenix Business Journal pressed former Vice President Dan Quayle, now chair of global operations for Chrysler LLC’s parent company, Cerberus. All Quayle would spell out was that “we’re not going to do the deal unless it’s a positive for our investors.” (Oct. 23)

The United Auto Workers union has been left out of the discussions, while financiers, including JP Morgan Chase, have had a seat at the table for at least a week. It’s their call whether any deal goes forward. (That’s nothing new. During the 1937 sit-down strikes the UAW rightly

called GM “a Morgan-DuPont dictatorship.”) The big banks favor a merger that would increase GM’s market share while drastically reducing labor costs. Yet the banks and GM appear unwilling to finance any acquisition without government aid. According to the Detroit News, “General Motors Corp. is in talks with government officials about obtaining about \$5 billion to help fund a possible merger with Chrysler LLC. GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner was in Washington last week to meet with U.S. Treasury Department officials and make a case for a quick release of funds.” (Oct. 28) This would be on top of the \$25 billion the Energy Department plans to loan the Big Three, who are lobbying to get that amount doubled.

Now that the taxpayers have given them some liquidity, the big banks might gamble on GM making profits by increasing market share while drastically reducing labor costs. Yet the banks do want help financing any acquisition. According to the Detroit News, “With credit markets still reeling from the banking crisis, a deal may hinge on state and federal authorities’ willingness to aid the struggling U.S. auto industry.” (Oct. 27) Now the Big Three want to see the pledged \$25 billion in federal aid doubled.

Michigan alone could lose 30,000 good-paying union jobs if Chrysler is sold and eventually gutted. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri would be hard-hit as well. “This is not a corporate event. This is a human event,” Molly Shor, whose husband is a Chrysler engineer, told the Detroit Free Press. “This is not just a merger or an acquisition or right-sizing or even the evolution of a company. This is happening to this community.” (Oct. 27)

Not one of the so-called industry analysts has questioned the legality of a

Chrysler sale, but it would be a clear violation of the UAW contract. This concessionary contract passed by a slim margin last year.

“Chrysler has agreed that it will not close, nor partially or wholly sell, spin off, split off, consolidate or otherwise dispose of, in any form, any plant, asset or business unit of any type beyond those which have already been identified,” workers were told then. The only facilities identified for closing were two assembly plants, two parts plants and a parts warehouse. The contract further stated that “no employee covered will be laid off” except in certain defined circumstances. Selling the company outright would clearly be illegal, as would the inevitable mass layoffs.

In addition, the closing of plants might be a violation of state laws. Ohio law stipulates that a certain number of jobs be created and retained when tax abatements are granted by state or local governments. If the plant closes, the state can take measures to recover lost revenues.

That a sale of Chrysler or a GM-Chrysler merger is being considered—in flagrant disregard of both economic and legal consequences—raises a bigger question. Who should run the plants? Isn’t it clear that both GM and Chrysler (and for that matter Ford), with the big banks’ collaboration, have brought the industry to the brink of destruction? They became addicted to the huge profits they made on SUVs. Rather than retool for a fuel efficient vehicle, they are mothballing plants that build the gas-guzzlers now rusting on dealer lots.

Today the UAW represents only 165,000 workers on the shop floors of the Big Three. Repeatedly union members were told to “make changes.” Now they

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**Exploding myths:**

**Capitalism, socialism & personal property**

By Deirdre Griswold

On Wall Street the other day, at a rally demanding that public funds be used to bail out the people and not the bankers, no one had a kind word for capitalism.

Perhaps more remarkable, of the hundreds of workers from the area who stopped to listen, only one heckled the speakers. And he worked himself up into a real sweat because no one agreed with him.

Capitalism is a bad word these days. How many politicians or even financial experts and analysts are extolling its virtues, as they did only a year ago? Remember all the great wealth that capitalism was said to create? Remember how, even if some people were getting obscenely wealthy, enough of it would trickle down to the masses to make everyone happy?

Now, half that paper wealth is gone. (Paper is all that capitalist financial institutions create. It’s workers who create the real wealth, the wealth you can eat and wear and drive around.) The global stock markets have lost 51 percent of their value so far this year. And after the market collapse comes the collapse of production as layoffs begin. Disaster on a

big scale is already here for the millions who have been losing their jobs and/or their homes.

Okay, capitalism is rotten and now a lot of people know it. So, what comes next?

This article is not about reforming capitalism. It’s an economic system, not just a policy that can be changed by putting in new CEOs or changing politicians and laws. Capitalism is driven by profits. The search for profits drives it to expand; the need to make profits also drives it to over-produce and implode into crisis. These cycles have been recurring for more than two centuries and no one has ever figured out a way to fix the system. When there’s a really major contraction of markets, capitalism “fixes” itself by destroying productive capacity—often in major wars, snuffing out the lives of millions of people and decimating their lands.

So this isn’t about trying to fix capitalism. It’s about getting rid of it entirely. But the next question is, what can replace it? What can get production going again, but this time on a rational basis, where everyone can get jobs making what society needs? Where the real wealth they create working together benefits everyone, not just a small class of super-rich?

The answer is a society where the

means of production—factories, mines, railroads, the energy sources, all things used to create new wealth—are owned publicly, not privately. And that means socialism—a society where private property has been abolished.

Here’s where there is the most confusion about socialism. Those who really do benefit from capitalism will lie and tell you that under socialism you can’t have your own PERSONAL property. You can’t own your own home or your own boat, etc.

The truth is that your personal property—what you need to enjoy a secure and comfortable life—is a lot safer under socialism than under capitalism.

Until this economic crisis, tens of millions of people in the United States thought they owned their homes, their cars, their furniture and so on. Yes, they sent checks every month to the bank or the finance company, but if you asked them, it was their home, their car.

Ah, but it wasn’t. It belonged to the bank. The people weren’t really homeowners after all, were they? They had a contract. The small print said that after paying on a mortgage for something like 30 years, during which time they would

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# Election irregularities hint at possible 2000 repeat

By David Hoskins

The extreme right wing is working overtime to suppress the vote and deny the first major-party African-American candidate the opportunity to become president. Election specialists and news reports have identified more than a dozen states where accusations of voter suppression and election rigging may determine the outcome of the presidential race. The battleground states of Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Florida and West Virginia

are among those states where Republican Party operatives have attempted to override the choices of voters and secure a McCain victory on Election Day.

The activity in many states is restricted to technically legal, although constitutionally questionable, voter suppression tactics. In some states, however, it appears that the right wing is attempting outright vote theft.

Six voters in two West Virginia counties have reported that electronic voting machines visibly changed their vote to

John McCain when they tried to cast their vote for Barack Obama. Retired factory worker Calvin Thomas claims that “When I went in, I pushed Obama and Biden. It immediately went up to McCain on the Republican ticket.” According to Thomas, his daughter had the same problem and it required complaining to an election worker in order to get the vote to register for Obama. (cnn.com)

Shelba Ketchum, a 69-year-old retired nurse, reported similar problems when she attempted to vote. According to

Ketchum, “I pushed buttons and they all came up Republican. I hit Obama and it switched to McCain. I am really concerned about that. If McCain wins, there was something wrong with the machines.” Ketchum says that she requested a print-out verification of her votes and that the election workers said it was not possible to obtain one. (Charleston Gazette, Oct. 18)

Thousands of voters in Georgia and Florida have been declared ineligible to vote. In Georgia more than 50,000 vot-

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# Obama & the politics of race

By Dolores Cox

Despite all the glorified rhetoric that the U.S. is now a post-racial society and that race won’t be a factor in this year’s election, that day isn’t in sight. The U.S. hasn’t proven that it’s ready to turn away from racism and oppression. The use of its power and wealth has not been used in the service of true democracy either here or abroad.

There is much need to review its myopic view of the world and its place in it; practicing what it preaches is still wanting. The U.S. is anything but united, since the ruling class has always pitted one group against the other and instilled divisions to feed its capitalistic needs.

Senator Barack Obama’s popularity and rise have more to do with the destructiveness of the past eight years under the Bush administration than with the death

of racism. Sorry, pundits, but racism isn’t even in its terminal stage or on life support, much less dead. Race has always mattered here, and there are few real indications that it won’t continue to matter.

The reality is that we have a presidential candidate who faces death threats solely because of bigotry and his skin color. He has had to strive twice as hard and be twice as good as the next person to arrive at where he is today. He has to bear an additional burden—racism, which has been a hallmark of U.S. culture since its inception.

If elected, Obama will be inheriting the worse mess the U.S. has encountered in a long time. And if he falters in office, there will undoubtedly be many who’ll attribute it to the “inferiority” of his race, despite the fact that his predecessor and all the presidents before him have been white men.

However, they’ll put aside those facts of what Obama will inherit and insist on a quick fix. Superman, Obama is not.

For those who clamor that if Obama is elected there will be reverse racism and he’ll cater to Black people, this is a ludicrous assumption if ever there was one. It’s a fear probably based on their own racist behavior, and stems from the principle of doing unto others as they have done unto you—thereby expecting that Obama will turn the proverbial table.

And then there are Black folks who seem to believe that if Obama is elected, their standard of living will drastically improve. The reality, though, is that his election alone will have no significant impact on the conditions that most have suffered under for many generations. No one Black man can undo that.

For that to happen there needs to be

significant changes in attitudes, beliefs and behavior toward so-called minorities. The resistance to change at all levels of government in policies, procedures and practices and by individual citizens has been legendary. If the will to change the status quo is not present, the racial disparities that have been built into economic, social, health, housing and education systems will remain wide.

As president, Obama will not be able to effect change without the cooperation of the people and without demands on him for accountability. And until such time as there’s a collective will to level the playing field for Black citizens and nonwhite immigrants, to stop segregating and discriminating, to discontinue oppressing “the other” and to reject the notion of white supremacy, race and politics will unfortunately continue to go hand in hand. □

# Protests demand: Bail out the people!

*Continued from page 1*

foreclosures and on anti-immigrant raids.

Victims of foreclosures and evictions joined others demonstrating outside the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in downtown **Detroit** on Oct. 27 to demand a state of economic emergency and a two-year moratorium on foreclosures. They also demanded a federal bailout for Detroit residents, who have the U.S.’s highest poverty and unemployment rates.

Since interim Mayor Kenneth Cockrel Jr. took office in mid-September, organizers with the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions have sent three letters demanding a meeting to discuss the crisis facing the city. Cockrel ignored the letters until activists confronted him at two “meet and greet” community meetings. Coalition spokespeople received a tremendous response from the audience and the mayor was forced to acknowledge that a moratorium was a “good idea.”

A multinational group of 16 activists went to a meeting they had been invited to in the mayor’s office on Oct. 27, only to find that it was postponed. A confrontation occurred with city police and members of the mayor’s security detail. One senior shouted, “Show some respect! We pay your salary and this is OUR office!”

Coalition members then discussed a plan of further action in the City Council auditorium. The mayor’s representative finally agreed to come to the coalition’s office on Oct. 28.

Coalition members will present a draft letter for the mayor to send to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, formally requesting a declaration of a state of emergency and asking her to use her emergency powers to impose a moratorium.

Surrounded by huge, glass-covered banks and a Federal Reserve Board office on Oct. 24, protesters in **Buffalo** expressed such clear, intense anger against

the whole capitalist system that it drew the interest and attention of downtown workers. High school and college students stood for an hour in the cold wind. One community activist pointed to the buildings: “You can see how many are paying attention, even in those windows.”

In **Baltimore**, protesters braved pouring rain outside the Federal Reserve Bank to announce a statewide campaign to demand emergency measures for workers.

Local television and C-Span covered the speak-out, which included union delegates, community organizers and student activists, called by the Baltimore chapter of the National Network to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions.

Before a midtown Chase Bank in **Tucson, Ariz.**, on Oct. 26, people unfurled a large banner reading, “Bailout the people—Not the banks!” attracting horn-honking, hoots and hollers of support at the busy intersection.

Less than 0.5 percent of the \$850 billion now being given to bankers would wipe out Arizona’s \$2.6 billion budget shortfall, provide the essential services working and poor people need, and prevent the planned mass layoffs of state workers.

On Oct. 25 in **Charlotte, N.C.**, 50 people rallied outside the Bank of America’s world headquarters. Workers from the Charlotte chapter of UE Local 150; Raleigh FIST; Atlanta International Action Center (IAC); Charlotte Action Center for Justice; UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Chapel Hill Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) picketed, demanding a moratorium on foreclosures, evictions, cuts to the state budget and student loans.

Passersby responded positively, some joining the picket. Organizers pledge to continue building working-class fightback.

Representatives from Black Workers for Justice, Raleigh FIST, UNC-Chapel Hill SDS, UE 150 and community allies

had converged at the Wachovia building in downtown **Raleigh, N.C.**, the day before, demanding a bailout for the people, money for jobs and education, and saying “no” to massive public sector budget cuts. Workers showed strong support, some joining the protest.

The **Cleveland** chapter of FIST held a protest at the national headquarters of National City Bank, just one day after it had been bought out by PNC Bank. Protesters went inside the bank and later FIST members went to the Public Square in Cleveland to distribute Workers World newspaper.

Led by youth from FIST and SDS, nearly 30 people gathered on Oct. 27 at **Philadelphia’s** City Hall, across from Wachovia Bank. The defunct Wachovia is one of many banks responsible for the subprime mortgage scandal and the subsequent tightening of credit markets, and stands to receive 25 billion taxpayer dollars. Speakers pointed out Wachovia Bank’s profit origins from U.S. slavery and its recent practice of “redlining” neighborhoods of color to deny development loans.

Passersby stopped to sign a petition for a bailout that would provide programs people really need. Philadelphia IAC, Brandywine Peace Community, N’COBRA, Code Pink—Delaware River Area, Justice for Families, Neighbors Against McPenetration, RASH—Philadelphia, Philadelphia Socialist Action and FIST sponsored the protest.

In Boston television and the Boston Globe covered 50 people at a press conference/rally at **Boston** City Hall where Boston’s three city councilors of color—Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey and Sam Yoon—called on the governor and mayor to declare a state of emergency and ensure that thousands facing winter have heat and light guaranteed. More than 100,000 had received shutoff notices from Massachusetts utility companies last May.

Nan Genger of the Women’s Fightback Network linked the shutoffs to the war budget and the Wall Street bailout. Tony Hernandez, organizer for District Council 35, Painters and Allied Trades, described how the economic crisis is affecting poor and working people in every community.

Miya Campbell of FIST told how the economic crisis impacts youth. Other speakers included members of USW 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union; Jason Lyden, pastor of the Community Church of Boston; a representative from Action for Boston Community Development; and a member of New England Human Rights for Haiti.

**San Diego** homeowner June Reyno called the Ad Hoc National Network to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions office to announce her intention to chain herself to her home of 19 years as the police were threatening to evict her on Oct. 27.

The Network office put her in touch with activists from the IAC and others who stood with her on Oct. 27 and helped attract San Diego media to cover her struggle.

Reyno is angry that an offer was made to sell her back the house and then withdrawn when she and her spouse found a willing lender. The bank clearly intends to sell the home at a bigger profit, perpetuating the greedy financial feeding frenzy that has produced the catastrophe of foreclosures and evictions.

By defying the eviction, Reyno provides an example of resistance to injustice that will resonate among the millions in danger of losing their homes. As of Oct. 28, no cops have come.

*Sharon Black, Ben Carroll, John Catalinotto, Ellie Dorritie, Kris Hamel, Caleb Maupin, Bob McCubbin, Monica Moorehead, Frank Neisser, John Parker, Paul Teitelbaum and Scott Williams contributed to this report.*

*Full report at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).*



# Layoffs mount as economic downturn spreads

By Fred Goldstein

Escalating layoffs, growing unemployment and accelerating contraction of the capitalist economy, in the U.S. and world-wide, are taking center stage in the present global crisis.

The U.S. government is handing out trillions of dollars to the banks, insurance companies and auto companies to make up the losses of the millionaires and billionaires. They are letting the crisis of the capitalist system fall squarely on the backs of the workers.

Three-quarters of a million workers in the U.S. lost their jobs since September. It is expected that 200,000 a month will lose their jobs in the next period. In September alone there were 2,269 “mass layoffs,” that is, layoffs involving 50 or more workers at one time, involving 235,000 workers. There is no telling how many workers were laid off in numbers of less than 50.

New unemployment claims for the month of September were 478,000, which is a rise of 15,000 more than expected. There was an 11 percent rise in the number of workers put on part-time hours, the highest in 15 years. And there was a rise in the number of workers who have stopped looking for work. The present official unemployment rate of 6.1 percent is expected to increase dramatically in the next several months.

In addition, in September there were two million workers officially unemployed for more than 27 weeks. Several hundred thousand workers exhausted their 13-week extended unemployment benefits passed by the Congress this summer. Many of these workers are sole family supporters.

## NYC foreclosures hit Queens hardest

By Mary Owen  
New York

The borough of Queens had the highest rate of home foreclosures in New York City over the past year, averaging more than 150 foreclosures a month.

Only in September 2008 did the Queens foreclosure rate dip below the rate in Staten Island, according to online real estate data company PropertyShark.com.

As of Oct. 1, “New York City foreclosures climbed 60 percent to 1,118, led by Staten Island and Queens,” Bloomberg.com reported. (Oct. 1) This is the highest citywide level in two years.

The latest round of Queens foreclosures came on top of a huge spike in August, when the borough’s foreclosures “shot up like the Alps,” increasing by 113 percent over the last year. (wcbstv.com, Sept. 4)

New York City’s largest borough geo-

### ‘Who’s who’ of big business leading the layoff wave

Many of the big corporations with global empires sense the coming recession and are “getting ahead of the curve” by carrying out layoffs to cut costs and boost profits early on. The airlines are planning 36,000 layoffs, mainly in the fourth quarter. The steel industry has shut down 17 of 29 blast furnaces. It is estimated that 300,000 jobs will be lost in the financial industry in the coming downturn. (New York Times, Oct. 26)

The auto industry has gotten rid of 100,000 workers in the last year and now General Motors is planning major layoffs if it can finish its merger with Chrysler. It is estimated that the merger would result in 40,000 job cuts. Chrysler has already ordered the layoff of 5,000 salaried workers by the end of the year. The company has also broken its contract by ending its matching payments to the 401k plans.

Bank of America is also planning large layoffs once its merger with Merrill Lynch is finished.

Among the giants leading the layoff charge are Hewlett Packard with 24,600 layoffs, 7.5 percent of its workforce; Goldman Sachs with 3,260 layoffs, 10 percent of its workforce; National City Corp. with 4,000 layoffs, 14 percent of its workers; Dell computer with 8,900 layoffs, also 10 percent of its workforce; and Merck Pharmaceuticals, which has already laid off 10,400 workers in the past three years and is planning another 7,200 layoffs, or 12 percent of its workforce.

Others include PepsiCo, which closed four bottling plants and is laying off 3,300 workers, and Whirlpool, which laid off 440 workers. General Electric has announced that it intends to make major

graphically, Queens is also the most diverse county in the U.S. Statistics from the U.S. Census and combined demographic studies show that Queens has the highest number of foreign-born residents—more than 48 percent—and that 87 percent of Queens residents like the diversity of the population. (New York Daily News, Sept. 18) The borough also includes a number of large African-American communities.

As in other major cities with high foreclosure rates like Detroit and Los Angeles, it is communities of color in Queens that are hardest hit by the seismic wave of foreclosures.

Southeast Queens has been the epicenter of the foreclosure earthquake, where oppressed communities such as Jamaica and South Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, the Rockaways and Broad Channel, Laurelton and Cambria Heights top the list.

*Continued on page 10*

## Low-Wage Capitalism

What the new globalized, high-tech imperialism means for the class struggle in the U.S.

Timely new book by Fred Goldstein describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx’s law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval. The analysis rests on three basic developments in the last three decades:

- The world’s workforce available to exploitation by transnational capitalist corporations doubled in the wake of the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe.

- The technological revolutions of the digital age, in both production and communications, have allowed transnational corporations to destroy high-wage jobs and simultaneously expand the global workforce to generate a worldwide wage competition.
- The decline in the economic condition of the workers, driven by the laws of capitalism and the capitalist class, is leading to the end of working-class compromise and retreat and must end up in a profound revival of the struggle against capital.

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layoffs, but won’t release the number of cuts expected.

### Overproduction is to blame

It is clear that all the financial manipulation by the leading capitalist economic authorities has been unable to stem the tide of the capitalist crisis. Beginning last May, Bear Stearns collapsed and was swallowed up by Bank of America, with a \$30 billion bailout from the Federal Reserve Board. Next came the multibillion dollar bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, followed by the \$85 billion bailout of insurance giant AIG, the subsidized merger of Washington Mutual with Bank of America, and the forced merger of Wachovia and Wells Fargo, among others.

During this period the financial authorities were preoccupied with preventing bank failures piecemeal. Then came the systemic bailout plans and the \$700 billion plan. But, because toxic loans were spread throughout the banking system, lending ceased and credit froze. So the financial officials poured hundreds of billions more dollars into the banking system and declared that they would guarantee inter-bank loans in the hope of unfreezing credit. That was the phase in which the credit crisis was thought to be the problem.

Now it is clear that the crisis is flowing from capitalist overproduction. The real estate dealers cannot sell houses. The auto companies cannot sell autos. GE cannot sell airplane engines to a shrinking industry. Loans will not be made to companies that are losing sales and profits.

A surefire indicator of the economic downturn is in the transportation industry. The pre-holiday months are the time for a significant rise in shipping as companies build up inventory for the season. Right now the transportation industry is in a downturn across the board. UPS has described a “precipitous decline” in next-day deliveries. Other trucking companies have similar reports. Trucking carries 70 percent of the freight in the U.S. and thousands of trucking companies have gone bankrupt in the last year. (Wall Street Journal, Oct. 24)

The largest railroads in the country—Union Pacific, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Norfolk Southern and CSX—have all reported third-quarter drops in shipments. The number of containers shipped through the top 10 container ports in the U.S. has dropped by 7.2 percent from

## CLEVELAND

# ‘Bailout’ billions used to swallow city’s largest bank

By Martha Grevatt

In Michael Moore’s film “Fahrenheit 9/11,” Bush is shown defining his constituency as “the haves and the have-mores.” Now that Bush and Congress have orchestrated a historic giveaway of wealth—created by the have-nots—the have-mores are using it to swallow the less fortunate haves.

The banks that got a free government handout are taking their lottery winnings and buying up the banks that got none. When \$7.7 billion was awarded to PNC Bank of Pittsburgh, PNC decided to spend \$5.6 billion and buy National City Bank of Cleveland.

The 163-year-old bank was the ninth largest in the U.S. and the largest in Cleveland. Among local financial institutions, NCB was the most deeply

January to September.

Similar reports of layoffs and economic contraction are coming in from Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The recession is global and the worldwide working class is under attack.

### Only solution is workers’ fight-back

This is leading to proposals in the U.S. that the trade unions, communities and municipalities band together and form a front to stop the layoffs, foreclosures and evictions and the social service cuts that are coming down upon the people.

The demand is rising that the trillions of dollars being used to bail out the bankers be used to bail out home owners and tenants, fund health care, cancel the debt on student loans, guarantee heat and electricity to everyone this winter, open up the workplaces that are shutting down and rehire laid-off workers.

History shows that the only answer to the onslaught of a capitalist recession is for the workers and the oppressed to organize and fight back.

The workplaces do not have to be shut down. There are millions of people who need food, clothes, automobiles, mass transportation, housing, health care and many other necessities. But the places that make and sell those goods and services are being shut down and cut back because there is a crisis of bosses’ profits.

The bosses have spent the last 30 years breaking unions, cutting wages, pensions and health care benefits, raising rents and housing costs, and generally impoverishing the vast majority of the workers. At the same time they want the workers to buy more and more so that the bosses can keep increasing their profits.

Capitalism has created this crisis. But the multinational working class, employed and unemployed, documented and undocumented, does not have to take it lying down. The trillions of dollars that are being handed over to the banks can be used to run the workplaces under the control of the workers for the benefit of the people.

The people, through mass organizations, should have control over how these trillions of dollars are going to be spent. After all, that money represents the wealth that was created by the workers in the first place. In fact, the workers should not only control it, they should own it in the long run. □

entrenched in the subprime scandal.

This deal will create the fifth largest bank in the country, topped only by Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup and Wells Fargo.

Thanks to a “change of control” clause in their contracts, NCB’s three highest-ranking executives will be compensated to the tune of \$40 billion. The other 25,000 employees, including 8,000 in northeast Ohio, won’t be so lucky. In fact, both PNC and NCB workers will face layoffs once the consolidation goes through. These are job losses that neither Cleveland nor Pittsburgh, reeling from the flight of manufacturing jobs that began in the 1980s, can afford. (Cleveland Plain Dealer, Oct. 25)

As local activists chanted in an Oct. 25 demonstration outside NCB’s downtown headquarters: “NCB, PNC; all the banks are greedy!” □

HOT  
off the press!



# U.S. imperialism exposed as British House of Lords deny Chagos Islanders right of return

By Abayomi Azikiwe

A decision by the British House of Lords, the upper house of Parliament, has overturned a previous high court ruling to allow the inhabitants of the Chagos Islands to return to their homes. The Chagos Islands, the largest of which was known as Diego Garcia, are located in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Thousands of Chagos Islanders, also known as Ilois, are living in Britain after being evacuated during the 1960s and early 1970s, when the territory was leased by the British to the United States for the construction of a naval and air base.

In a British court decision in November of 2000, the people of the Chagos Islands won their case, which claimed that their forced removal was illegal. The then British foreign secretary, Robin Cook, claimed that the government would immediately transport the Chagossians to the outer islands.

However, in 2004 the government decided to renege on the decision and appealed the initial verdict in favor of the Chagos Islanders. In a high court decision in 2007, the original verdict was upheld and it was reiterated that the people were illegally expelled and should be given the right to repatriate.

Nonetheless, the British appealed to the House of Lords, which delivered the most recent decision denying the right of the Chagos Islanders to return to their homeland. The decision was met with protests by the Chagossians and their supporters in Britain and throughout the world.

“There are a lot of Chagossian people in front of the court today and we are very sad about this decision,” Hengride Permel of the Chagos Island Community Association told Al Jazeera on Oct. 22. “It was a chance for the British government to right a wrong. ... It is a shameful day for the government.” Permel said the Chagossian people would deliver a letter of protest to Prime Minister Gordon Brown asking that he overturn the decision.

In addition to the forced relocation of the Chagossians to Britain, many were also taken to Mauritius, also located in the Indian Ocean.

According to the British-based solicitor Richard Gifford, who represented the Chagossians in their case: “It has been the misfortune of the Chagos Islanders that their passionate desire to return to their homeland has been caught up in the power politics of foreign policy for the past 40 years. Sadly, their struggle to regain their paradise lost has been dismissed on legal grounds, but the political possibilities remain open for Parliament, the British public and the international community to continue to support [their return].”

## Significance of the British and U.S. removal

During the mid-1960s the U.S. claimed that it was concerned about possible Soviet expansion in the Indian Ocean and wanted to establish a base in the region on an island with no population.

In a secret deal, which was never revealed to the U.S. Congress or the British Parliament, a payment of \$11 million was

made to lease the territory from Britain, which controlled the area as a colony.

The first choice of the U.S. was the island of Aldabra, just north of Madagascar. However, Aldabra was a breeding ground for giant tortoises, which interfered with potential military activity and whose removal could have drawn controversy from ecologists.

As an alternative they targeted the Chagos Islands, alongside neighboring Mauritius, which were ruled by the British. At the same time there was an independence struggle going on demanding that Britain relinquish control of both territories.

In 1965 Britain agreed to grant independence to Mauritius only after the Chagos Islands were separated from the deal. The British then created what was called the British Indian Ocean Territory. This unilateral act on the part of Britain stripped the Chagos Islands residents of any rights to determine their destiny.

A telegram sent to the British mission at the United Nations in 1965 framed the argument that would be made to the international community. The memo stated “We recognise that we are in a difficult position as regards references to people at present on the detached islands.

“We know that a few were born on Diego Garcia and perhaps some of the other islands, and so were their parents before them. We cannot therefore assert that there are no permanent inhabitants, however much this would have been to our advantage. In these circumstances, we think it would be best to avoid all references to permanent inhabitants.”

The people who were forced to leave the island were later refused re-entry. When the U.S. military forces arrived on Diego Garcia, the remaining residents were rounded up and deported to Mauritius.

## Need to close all U.S. bases illustrated

Even today in the U.S. military occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, the base established on the Chagos Islands during the 1960s is being utilized.

A recent Al Jazeera article points out that “Diego Garcia has been used in U.S. military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the British government has argued that it would not be right for the Chagossians to be allowed home, citing security concerns.” (Oct. 22)

Consequently, the real reason why the Chagossians are not being allowed to return to their homeland is because of the imperialist aims of the U.S. and Britain. This is why anti-war forces must not only demand the withdrawal of military forces from both Iraq and Afghanistan, but they must also insist that all foreign bases be closed and that the Indigenous inhabitants of these territories be given full rights to return to their homes.

The lessons of the seizure and occupation of the Chagos Islands points out that the imperialist states will create falsehoods to justify their military and territorial ambitions. The exposure of these lies sheds further light on the fact that the so-called “war on terrorism” is nothing but a continuation of the aims and objectives of world imperialism. □

# United Nations poised for broader intervention in Congo

## Historical background to the current crisis

By Abayomi Azikiwe  
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

*Read part one and two at workers.org.*

## The emergence and sabotage of the independence struggle

Congo was proclaimed independent on June 30, 1960. Two weeks after the ostensible transfer of power from Belgium to the [Patrice] Lumumba-Kasavubu government, mutinies and rebellions were occurring throughout Congo. Initially the problems within the Force Publique (Belgian colonial paramilitary police) were caused by the dashed expectations of the African rank-and-file members for an immediate improvement in pay and promotion comparable to their exclusively European officer corps.

In addition, the secessionist parties such as CONAKAT and MNC-Kalonji began a campaign of separation from the central government. On July 11, Moise Tshombe declared the mineral rich region of Katanga independent of the Republic of Congo headed by Patrice Lumumba. Belgian troops stationed in the region served as the decisive factor in maintaining the illegal Katanga rebellion for many months.

Tshombe requested and received the assistance of the then settler-colonial regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa, which provided extensive battalions of military troops. In response to this provocation, Lumumba requested the intervention of the United Nations in order to

re-establish a modicum of civil authority inside the country.

However, this decision on the part of the Congolese leader proved to be his ultimate undoing politically. After the arrival of U.N. forces in Congo in mid-July of 1960, the secretary-general, Dag Hammarskjold, objectively sided with the political forces domestically and internationally who were in opposition to Lumumba’s policies.

With the failure of the U.N.-directed military forces to prevent the effective collapse of the post-independence government, Lumumba publicly appealed to the Soviet Union for material assistance.

Even though Lumumba traveled to the U.S. twice during 1960 in order to explain his position to the U.S. government and the U.N., he was targeted by the State Department for liquidation at the hands of the Central Intelligence Agency. In a 1975 congressional hearing chaired by Idaho Senator Frank Church, one former National Security Agency staffer, Robert Johnson, testified about a high level meeting between President Eisenhower and top ranking intelligence officers where a decision was made to assassinate Patrice Lumumba.

When Kasavubu publicly broke with the governing coalition and dismissed Lumumba from the Congolese government on September 5, 1960, the stage was set for the eventual kidnapping and execu-

tion of the prime minister by the forces of Mobutu and Tshombe with the full backing of the U.S. and other colonial powers.

Mobutu had initially made a bid for political power in mid-September 1960 by announcing that he was neutralizing all political leaders in the country. Lumumba, along with two of his colleagues, Maurice Mpolo, the minister of Youth and Sports, and Joseph Okoto, president of the Senate, was brutally murdered on January 17, 1961, in Elizabethville, the capital of Katanga.

International outrage against his murder was felt throughout the continent and the world. At the U.N. headquarters in the U.S., African Americans violently disrupted the proceedings of this world body, blaming it for the murder of the Congolese leader.

## Lessons for U.N. involvement today

With the recent announcement by the U.N. Mission to Congo (MONUC) that it is desirous of greater military involvement inside the DRC, the history of Western involvement in this country must be considered. During the collapse of the Mobutu regime in 1996-97, a broad-based coalition known as the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (ADFL) was formed under the leadership of the late former president, Laurent Kabila.

Kabila, who had fought alongside the Lumumbaist forces during the early and mid-1960s after the murder of the country’s

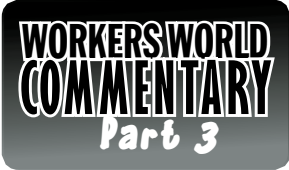
first prime minister in 1961, later formed the Congolese People’s Revolutionary Party, which advanced a socialist solution to the post-colonial problem of the DRC. Kabila’s role is cited in several historical accounts of the 1960s, when revolutionary Cuba had sent a brigade of fighters to the country in an ill-fated effort to overthrow the pro-Western government.

Kabila, who had formed an alliance with the Rwandan and Ugandan governments during the war of 1996-97 that overthrew Mobutu, later broke with the governments in Kigali and Kampala, respectively. The U.S., which politically supported the Ugandan and Rwandan states, encouraged a military intervention to topple Kabila in 1998.

In response to this imperialist effort, the progressive governments of Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia in southern Africa sent in tens of thousands of troops to beat back the Western-backed invasion, creating a military stalemate that eventually created the conditions for a negotiated settlement in 2003. During this period, it has been estimated that three out of four Congolese lost their lives, numbering in the millions.

In regard to the recent upsurge in fighting since late September, the Inter-regional Information Network has reported, “More than 150,000 people have been driven from their homes in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over the past two months by fight-

*Continued on page 9*





## After mass firing

# Korean workers come to the source

By Deirdre Griswold  
New York

When 300 women workers who manufactured SIRIUS satellite radios in Seoul, South Korea, were all fired for forming a union, they vowed to fight for their jobs.

That was on Aug. 5, 2005—more than three years ago—and they are still fighting.

In mid-October, a delegation of six people from the Korean Metalworkers Union visited New York to seek justice from SIRIUS. For days, they and allies from Korean community and labor groups picketed the firm’s corporate headquarters in a gleaming glass and steel building near Rockefeller Center, trying in vain to get the company to sit down with them. They wanted to know who was responsible for the decision by SIRIUS’s Korean affiliate, Kiryung, to fire the workers.

“On June 7, 2008, Kiryung had come to a tentative agreement to reinstate us

as contingent workers,” Hyewon Chong, one of those fired, told Workers World. “We would become regular workers one year later, so the union agreed. But then the company said its board of directors refused. So the workers started a hunger strike. Two of the women fasted for 94 days and were hospitalized.

“During the bargaining, Kiryung Co. said it had been told by SIRIUS to close all production lines in South Korea and move to China.

“They told us lies. They said there were no production lines left in Korea, so we can’t reinstate you. But we investigated and found five other production sites. Because the company keeps lying and makes no effort to settle, we’ve come here.”

The women found out that at exactly the same time they left South Korea, the company sent goons to the site of the workers’ sit-in outside the factory gates to beat people up.

More than 64 percent of all workers in South Korea are considered “precarious”—that is, they have no contract, no seniority and no rights. The Federation of Korean Industries argues that it has to be able to fire workers at will in order to be “flexible.”

A major reason the Kiryung workers decided to form a union was the company’s arbitrary firing policy. “There was an endless stream of dismissals for the pettiest reasons,” explained Chong. “The boss just had to say he didn’t like your face, or you were too fat, or you had asked to go home early. We were dying of overwork but were afraid to take a day off if we were sick, so people took over-the-counter drugs to keep working. When one colleague collapsed, the boss said, ‘Go home and rest and don’t bother to come back.’ The fear of firing gave the company lots of control over people.”

SIRIUS makes satellite radio recei-



Hyewon Chong WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

vers and has contracts with some of the world’s biggest auto companies to install them in its cars and trucks. It also provides commercial-free programming for a fee and recently merged with its main rival, XM, to create the second-largest subscription media business in the U.S.

“The repression against us is so extreme because this struggle is symbolic for millions,” says Chong. Indeed, companies like SIRIUS think they can dictate horrendous wages and working conditions all over the globe, threatening to move from country to country if workers organize and resist.

The Kiryung workers traveled halfway around the world to reach out for support. Workers here and their unions will be advancing their own struggle against rapacious corporations by responding. □

# European workers protest the financial crisis

By G. Dunkel

In October, workers in Europe started taking their anger over the attacks on their living standards, brought on by the current economic crisis, into the streets.

Workers in Belgium went out in early October in a nationally coordinated series of actions to demand the government curb rising prices. Almost all transportation was shut down, but the bosses were able to keep Antwerp, Europe’s busiest port, limping along.

More than two million Italians marched in Rome Oct. 25 to demand that Premier Silvio Berlusconi stop smashing and slashing Italy’s education system.

Berlusconi is a billionaire and controls much of Italy’s media. “Even if we are one million people protesting today, Berlusconi will say there was only one hundred of us. And he will be able to do

that because he controls so much of the media,” protester Livio Giorgi told Agence France-Presse. (Oct. 25)

Maria Turri carried a placard saying: “Hello children ... Your mother is protesting for you!” She told AFP: “My children have no guarantees for the future. We do not want a U.S.-style society where we cannot afford the schools. The government must invest more money into state schools instead of giving it to the banks.”

Four days earlier, on Oct. 21, workers in Greece’s two largest union confederations shut down the country with a 24-hour general strike, under banners that read “We don’t want to pay for their crisis” and “High prices, poverty, unemployment, we have had enough.” (www.7sur7.be) In some Greek workplaces, over 90 percent of the workers were on strike.

The two major Greek labor confederations, the General Confederation of Labor

(GSEE) with 2 million members and the Federation of Public Employees (ADEDY) with 500,000 members, want a complete change in the government’s economic policy. They want to repudiate its program of privatizations, salary austerity, fiscal restraint and the reform of retirements.

Protests and strikes took place all over Greece, including two marches in Athens and a series of sharp confrontations with the cops involving Molotov cocktails and tear gas.

The ferries that provide service from the mainland to the Greek islands remained in port. Banks, schools, post offices and courts were closed and hospitals functioned with an emergency staff. Trains didn’t run. Mass transit in Athens was also out, except for the service needed to get protesters to and from the demonstrations. Airline flights were canceled either because their Greek flight crews refused to fly or, for international flights, because air

traffic controllers were on strike. Lawyers and civil engineers also joined the strike. Journalists walked, which meant there was no media coverage of the strike.

Kyriaki Tassioula, a 45-year-old waiter, said: “We are protesting because they are not listening to us. ... The government guarantees the banks but it cut my pension.” (Al Jazeera, Oct. 21)

Speaking in Athens, GSEE General Secretary Kostas Poupakis demanded that employers in Greece start increasing salaries considerably. He pointed out that people living below the poverty line, 5,000 euros a year (today worth about \$7,500), needed urgent assistance. Government figures show that 20 percent of Greece lives on 5,000 euros or less.

Kostas Panantoniou, ADEDY’s vice president, said, “This strike is only the beginning. We won’t be the victims again. Enough! This policy will be overturned.” (Al Jazeera, Oct. 21) □

*Continued from page 8*

ing on two fronts, with dissident Congolese and Ugandan rebels, the United Nations refugee agency reported.”

As long as the Western imperialist countries continue to utilize the Democratic Republic of Congo as a source for strategic minerals, the country will be subjected to renegade rebel incursions that are instigated by multinational corporations. The African Union, which is also a focal point for imperialist interference, must struggle to develop an independent foreign policy that upholds the right of its member-states to self-determination and sovereignty.

The solution to the problems in the DRC is representative of the post-colonial crisis in Africa and throughout the world. Despite national independence, the imperialist nations and the multinational corporations are continuing to seek dominance through the manipulation of various sectors of the population. As long as political instability can be maintained in the DRC and other regions of the continent, it will provide a rationale for the Western nations to militarily intervene directly or under the guise of the U.N.

Anti-imperialist forces inside the U.S. and the Western capitalist countries must study the history and contemporary situation inside the DRC. When the historical development of the country is taken into consideration, it becomes quite obvious that a political solution to underdevelop-

ment and the failure of capitalist economic methods can only come about through a total break with neoliberal policies that are promoted by the International Monetary Fund and other agencies.

Only a noncapitalist path toward development can create the conditions for genuine national independence and economic liberation. The solutions to the Congolese national question will inevitably come from the African people themselves, with the assistance of other anti-imperialists and socialist forces throughout the region and the world.

*Abayomi Azikiwe has written extensively on the history and current situation inside the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Go to panafricannews.blogspot.com.*



*The 39th Annual Day of Mourning will be held on “Thanksgiving” Thursday, Nov. 27 at 12 noon on Cole’s Hill in Plymouth, Mass. A dinner/social will follow a march and rally. The event is being sponsored by United American Indians of New England. For more updates, go to www.uaine.org. For New York transportation, call the International Action Center at 212-633-6646*

## Exploding myths:

# Capitalism, socialism & personal property

*Continued from page 5*

fork over several times what the house was priced at, then they would be the owners.

Likewise, how many people really own their cars outright? Isn’t the real owner GMAC or some auto dealership? Won’t the repo man come and take it away if you don’t make your payments?

Personal property is very precarious under capitalism. For the vast majority, wages are too low to be able to buy outright all the things they need so they have to go into debt to get them.

But let’s say you’re lucky enough to have a good-paying job. Even workers who have managed to pay for their homes, cars and household goods can still lose them once the economy implodes. They may be faced with catastrophic medical costs because there is no socialized medicine. Or they can get laid off and then where will they get the money to live on? How many people are already selling many of their possessions to raise cash? Garage and yard sales are everywhere.

It is times like these that expose the illusion that capitalism protects personal

property. Whether you bought on time or not, you can still lose everything.

What capitalism does protect big-time is capital—that is, the kind of private property that is used to exploit workers and create profits. That’s why the capitalist government was so quick to bail out the banks and corporations when they were facing bankruptcy. It has now spent trillions of the workers’ money to save the corporations and banks that exploit them.

Under socialism, the “right” to exploit other people doesn’t exist. That may hurt the way the superrich lead their lives, but it’s nothing most working people have to worry about.

What’s more important? The “right” to become a rich parasite? Or the right to a job, the right to a free education, the right to free quality medical care, the right to assistance if you can’t work, and the right to plan for your future without having to worry about cyclical capitalist economic crises? And, of course, the right to your personal property. All this is possible—not under capitalism, but definitely under socialism. □





# U.S. & Syria: which is rogue state?

What do you get when you cross a rogue state with a superpower? The United States.

That message came through loud and clear this week when the Pentagon sent a Special Forces unit over the border from Washington’s failed occupation of Iraq into Syria to murder eight civilians, including three children. First refusing to answer questions on the attack, the U.S. State Department then explained it as a new strategy.

The strategy: U.S. military forces can attack across any border of any country whenever they think it might give them a military advantage.

That is, Washington is the capital of a rogue state. It attacks whenever it feels like it for whatever reason pops into its head. It’s hard to imagine a state more rogue than that.

As if to underline this point, the Pentagon also carried out a cross-border attack at the eastern end of its occupied zone. In this one a drone, that is, an unpiloted plane from the U.S.’s failed occupation of Afghanistan, fired a rocket in Pakistan. Some 20 Pakistanis were killed there.

Later, regarding the aggression against Syria, the Pentagon claimed it had killed and removed an alleged al-Qaeda-in-Iraq agent. There is no way to independently check this information. Pentagon spokespeople have lied consistently about everything having anything to do with Iraq. They always claim they have targeted and killed al-Qaeda or Taliban “terrorists.” Somehow fishers, farmers and their children in Syria, and wedding parties in Pakistan are included in this “terrorist” list.

In this case, too, the smart money is betting that the Bush gang and the Pentagon officers are again lying. They use this cover story to justify their wanton aggression. They assume people in the U.S. will fall for the lie, as with “weapons of mass destruction” and Saddam Hussein’s bogus “ties to al-Qaeda.”

Outside the U.S., no one believes them. Not even U.S. allies. Not only have Russia, China and Iran condemned the attack, but also the pro-U.S. prime minister of Lebanon, the U.S. client regime in Egypt, the Arab League and the rightist French

government of Sarkozy.

The British media—which colluded with the war buildup against Iraq in 2002—this time began considering possible real motives behind the attack. The BBC’s coverage pointed out that “[The attack’s] timing is curious, coming right at the end of the Bush administration’s period of office and at a moment when many of America’s European allies—like Britain and France—are trying to broaden their ties with Damascus.” Other media, in Britain and elsewhere, speculated that the U.S. attack was the “October surprise” aimed at turning the election back toward John McCain.

Even official Iraqi voices criticized the attack and considered it another obstacle to approving the Status of Forces Agreement with Washington (see other editorial, this issue). The 50 permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq will be seen as a constant threat of new wars against Iraq’s neighbors. From London, the Syrian foreign minister warned that should there be a follow-up U.S. aggression, Syrian forces would be completely justified in responding.

An Asia Times article (Oct. 27) reports that some Iranians worry that the U.S. will use a similar ruse to strike inside that country of 70 million people, and that this could open up broader fighting.

The Bush gang led U.S. imperialism into a series of wars of aggression over the past eight years. From 2001 until at least the end of 2003, the administration had the support of the overwhelming majority of the U.S. ruling class, including its politicians, media and strategists as it prepared to conquer Afghanistan and Iraq. Now Bush is isolated. He heads a lame-hawk administration, but it still has claws. And neither of the major capitalist candidates has dissociated himself from this new policy of aggression.

It is not only we who see the Bush administration as gangsters at the helm of the most powerful rogue state in world history. But we state it clearly. And we insist on the need to mobilize a mass movement to condemn the invasion of Syria and to stop further war adventures. □

## 2011? Troops out NOW!

Washington’s dismal failure to impose a so-called Status of Forces Agreement governing the U.S. troop presence in Iraq, after more than five-and-a-half years of war and occupation, proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that what is decisive is not military might, but the will of a people to resist foreign subjugation.

The agreement appears doomed after eight months of “negotiations” between Washington and the puppet regime that the U.S. installed in Baghdad. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis from every political and religious stripe—including Iraqi military leaders and personnel—have recently taken to the streets to denounce the accord. This agreement calls for U.S. troop withdrawal by the end of 2011, dozens of permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq, and Western—mostly U.S.—control over the greater part of Iraqi oil reserves.

Not even Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki can publicly support the agreement, which consigns Iraq to permanent colonial status under U.S. hegemony. An Iraqi member of parliament from Moqtada al-Sadr’s group, Nasser al-Rubaie, put it clearly: “This is an agreement which takes Iraq out of direct occupation and puts it under colonialism with the help of the government of Iraq. It only serves the occupier.” (London Sunday Times, Oct. 26) A recent unofficial poll of members of parliament indicated the agreement will not have majority support.

The Iraqi people know too well what U.S. dom-

ination has meant for their country: a million Iraqis have been killed, hundreds of thousands more are wounded and maimed, and five million are refugees both inside Iraq and in neighboring Jordan and Syria. Abject poverty, 60 to 70 percent unemployment, widespread disease, lack of potable water and medical treatment, destroyed infrastructure and sectarian fighting—these have been Washington’s “gift of liberation” to the Iraqi people.

Without the Status of Forces Agreement, the 154,000 U.S. troops will have no “legal basis” for remaining in Iraq past Dec. 31 when the United Nations war “mandate” expires. U.S. imperialism’s inability to get its puppet regime in Iraq to sign on to this agreement shows that Washington’s war policy is as bankrupt as its economic policy.

Nearly 4,200 U.S. soldiers have died in this war, tens of thousands more have been horribly maimed, and nearly a trillion dollars—money that is sorely needed by the people right here at home for jobs, social services, education, health care and housing—have been burned up by this bloody imperialist adventure.

The Iraqi people’s heroic resistance to the most powerful military in world history should encourage the U.S. anti-war movement to take further action. It’s time for all progressive forces here to redouble their efforts to demand an immediate end to the U.S. war and occupation, bring the troops home now, and affirm self-determination for the people of Iraq. □

## A case for workers' control

# Can workers stop the illegal sale of Chrysler?

*Continued from page 5*

are presented with a scenario that Chrysler may not exist as a car company and that any one of the three could go belly up unless the government steps in. The bosses have failed!

Now is the time to raise the slogan of workers’ control. The taxpayers should not give the bosses a penny. The funds set aside to help the industry should go to the workers to run the plants themselves. The first step to restore employment levels could be a shorter work week with no cut in pay.

Workers’ control is not as abstract as it sounds. In the period shortly before and after the Russian Revolution, workers kicked the bosses out and then ran the factories, with the support of the Soviet government. In Italy in the 1920s the workers took over the plants of Fiat and Alfa Romeo and made vehicles without supervision. In Venezuela today the Bolivarian government grants workers funds to run the plants after they occupy them.

It should not be assumed that a workers’ takeover would be illegal, even here. In 1912 the federal government established a Commission on Industrial

Relations to investigate the causes of strike violence. The commission unanimously blamed John D. Rockefeller for the deaths of more than 60 miners, their wives and children during the 1913 strike in Ludlow, Colo. Remarkably, four of the nine commissioners, including Commission Chair Francis P. Walsh, recommended “that private ownership of coal mines be abolished; and that the National and State Governments take over the same, under just terms and conditions, and that all coal lands shall thereafter be leased upon such terms that the mines may be cooperatively conducted by the actual workers therein.”

Furthermore, in 1937 both Michigan Governor Frank Murphy and U.S. Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins challenged GM’s insistence that the 44-day occupation of its plants was illegal.

The class struggle here is not at the stage where workers establish control and demands for workers’ control arise organically. Nevertheless, the slogan can be raised now, in advance of battles sure to come.

*Grevatt has been a UAW Chrysler worker for 21 years. E-mail mgrevatt@workers.org.*

## Election irregularities

*Continued from page 6*

ers were improperly purged from the voting rolls. Approximately 4,500 of them have been wrongly identified as noncitizens.

The state of Georgia is being sued for violating federal laws that prohibit massive purging within 90 days of an election. “People are being targeted, and people are being told they are noncitizens, including both naturalized citizens and U.S.-born citizens,” said Elise Shore, regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. “They’re being told they’re not eligible to vote, based on information in a database that hasn’t been checked and approved by the Department of Justice, and that we know has flaws in it.” (cnn.com)

The Ohio Republican Party attempted to force election officials in that state to engage in a similar purge of voting lists. In a lawsuit that made it to the U.S. Supreme Court, Ohio Republicans requested that the courts make the state’s secretary of state generate a list of mismatched names and purge those voters from the rolls. The Supreme Court sided with the secretary of state who claimed that such a list would possibly disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters.

In Indiana the fight has centered on access to early voting sites. Republican officials filed a lawsuit to close down early voting sites in three key Indiana cities—Hammond, Gary and East

Chicago. Indiana’s population is only eight percent Black, but Black voters are heavily concentrated in the three cities targeted by the lawsuit.

Recent polls demonstrate that Obama has built up a considerable lead in enough states to secure the 270 electoral votes necessary to win the election. The voter suppression efforts in key states appear designed to install a McCain presidency despite the preferences of voters. □

## Foreclosures hit Queens

*Continued from page 7*

“This could be the single greatest loss of Black wealth since the Great Depression, the greatest loss of Asian wealth since Japanese internment,” said City Council member James Sanders Jr., whose Laurelton district is in southeast Queens. (Queens Chronicle, Sept. 11)

Queens communities such as Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst and Corona, home to many Latin@s, have also suffered from high foreclosure rates. In addition, many Queens foreclosures affect two-family, three-family or larger homes, which jeopardize tenants who face eviction from rental apartments in foreclosed buildings.

A moratorium on foreclosures and evictions is needed to turn this situation around and stop the catastrophic loss of homes in Queens and throughout the U.S. □



# Chavez releases gov’t funds for workers, not bankers

By John Catalinotto  
Caracas, Venezuela

While the Bush gang in Washington and its counterparts in London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Tokyo were turning over the public treasury to financiers, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez was releasing government funds to a bank designated to make loans to popular projects in that country’s poorer communities.

On Oct. 17 Chávez inaugurated the program, which will help establish cooperative businesses and small construction projects connected with services for the people, before an audience of about 250 red-shirted supporters in a theater in downtown Caracas. In the crowd were 25 of the nearly 200 writers, economists, activists and organizers participating in the VIII meeting of the Network of Intellectuals in Defense of Humanity held jointly with the Forum of Alternatives.

The internationalists got cheers and applause as the president introduced them one by one. Colombian human rights activist, Senator Piedad Córdoba, received a standing ovation.

The meeting showed some of the

strong points of Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution: strong popular enthusiasm, topped by affection and admiration for Chávez himself. The president’s talk, rather than a lengthy monologue one might expect, was a give-and-take with the people, one with which both Chávez and the crowd seemed completely comfortable.

Even the youngest of the local organizers he questioned, a 24-year-old woman named Miledis Pineda, had a grip on every detail of the project she was responsible for in her community. Then to top off the dialog, Miledis demanded to come to the stage to give Chávez a hug. It was the president’s only moment of hesitation—but Miledis ran down the aisle, leapt onto the stage and stole the show.

While Miledis’ intervention was the most dramatic, all those who were questioned by Chávez knew their business and had no fear of tripping up in public, or at least none that could be seen. Most of those responsible were women, reflecting another point of great progress for this revolution.

One conversation took place over closed-circuit television with a food-processing cooperative. The overall impres-



Miledis Pineda

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

sion was of a population that had confidence in Chávez and in themselves.

While this meeting showed dramatically some of the progress made in Venezuela over the past 10 years, there are undoubtedly many challenges facing the revolution. The vast oil wealth has been nationalized, as was the steel industry and mining, but foreign imports and the media—TV, radio and newspaper—are still mostly in the hands of Venezuela’s wealthy class. These

media are completely and often viciously anti-Chávez and anti-revolution.

Illiteracy is all but eliminated, and children of the poor now make up a majority of those in university, mostly in state-run schools, with thousands of new doctors being educated in Cuba. The “misiones” that bring subsidized food and medical care to and organize leisure activity in the communities are impressive. But like the one in metropolitan Caracas called Gramoven, they still only reach a minority of Venezuela’s vast poor population. Some 80 percent of food is imported, which has presented no immediate problem because Venezuela’s great oil wealth provides a trade surplus shared among the population.

The Bolivarian Revolution, as most here will tell you, is still a work in progress that must defend itself against powerful enemies, especially in Washington, who threaten with economic sanctions and the renovated Fourth Fleet. It is a revolution that international solidarity can help to succeed.

*Catalinotto was one of two people from the U.S. at the VIII international meeting.*

# Unions step up support for Cuban Five

By Cheryl LaBash

Unite the Union, the largest United Kingdom and Irish union, set an example for union sisters and brothers in the U.S. in September by stepping up its campaign to free the five Cuban anti-terrorist heroes unjustly held in U.S. prisons. The campaign also demands humane visitation rights for their family members—especially Olga Salanueva and Adriana Perez who have been cruelly denied the right to see their spouses.

Although known here as the Cuban Five, in Britain they are known as the Miami Five for the U.S. city where their arrests on Sept. 12, 1998, and blatantly prejudiced trial occurred.

This action is more than an example; it is an opportunity for U.S. union members. In July Unite the Union completed a merger agreement with the United

Steelworkers in the U.S. to become the global union Workers Uniting.

Derek Simpson, Unite joint general secretary, said: “Unite and the UK and Irish trade union movement are absolutely determined to highlight the injustice of this case. We have raised the issue with our colleagues in U.S. trade unions as the vast majority of Americans are completely unaware about this miscarriage of justice that has occurred in their country. This has been due to the almost total media silence that surrounded this case.” (amicustheunion.org)

A special web page for the campaign, unitetheunion.com/miami5, explains the case, appeals for union and individual donations and displays “a short film to mark the 10th anniversary of the arrest of the five Cubans unjustly jailed for trying to stop U.S.-based terrorist attacks against their country.” The video is also available on the union’s internet TV.



Gerardo Hernández Nordeolo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Rene González Sehwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort.

A Sept. 12 press statement expressed broad working-class solidarity with the Five and their families. “To coincide with the anniversary of their arrests...UK union leaders including Unite joint general secretaries, Derek Simpson and Tony Woodley, Unison’s Dave Prentis, CWU’s Billy Hayes and TUC general secretary Brendan Barber are calling on the U.S. government to give visitation rights to the families of the Miami Five.

“The Miami Five have spent ten years in prison for gathering information about the right-wing terrorist groups working out of Miami who were responsible for the deaths of over 3,500 Cubans....

“Unite joint general secretary, Tony

Woodley, said: ‘This case represents a travesty of justice by the U.S. government who are using the Miami Five to make a political point against Cuba. To deny the families the right to visit their loved ones is totally inhumane.’”

With 250,000 Communication Workers Union members, 3 million active and retired member of Workers Uniting, 6.5 million in the Trades Unions Congress and more than 1 million UNISON public sector union members, powerful new allies are demanding justice at an important moment. A request for an appeal of the Cuban Five case to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court is being prepared for submittal early this winter. □

# People’s movement stops execution of Troy Davis

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

On Oct. 23, rallies for Troy Davis, an innocent Black man scheduled to be executed in Georgia, were held in 14 U.S. cities including Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco, and throughout Europe.

Thousands upon thousands of e-mails, letters, phone calls and faxes had been sent to Georgia officials, media outlets and international bodies urging immediate action to stop the death sentence from being carried out on the evening of Oct. 27.

Then, on the morning of Oct. 24, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals granted Davis’ lawyers a hearing on his emergency appeal based on claims of innocence. This is a fairly unprecedented move by the appellate court, which had previously denied an appeal of his conviction.

Davis’ case has aroused worldwide outrage. Such well-known figures as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Pope



Supporters in Paris hold a photo of Troy Davis in front of their faces.

Benedict XVI as well as the Parliament of the European Union have all called his trial and death sentence a miscarriage of justice.

Davis was convicted in 1991 of the murder of a white Savannah off-duty policeman, Mark Allen McPhail, based solely on eyewitness testimony. The prosecution had no forensic evidence, no physical proof and no weapon to connect Davis to the shooting.

Seven of the nine eyewitnesses have recanted their trial testimony, many of

them claiming police coercion and intimidation. Teenagers, questioned for hours without their parents, were told they would be charged as accessories to the murder if they didn’t finger Davis. Other witnesses, whose testimony implicated another man, were

not called to court. Incredibly, that man, Sylvester Coles, who has a legal record of assaults, drug charges and weapons possession, is who first went to the police and named Davis as the shooter.

Davis has always maintained his innocence. His family and especially his sister, Martina Correia, have traveled the globe telling the story of police and prosecutorial misconduct that railroaded Davis onto death row for a killing he did not commit. Davis’ case illuminates everything that is wrong about the death penalty—from its

inherent racial and class bias that sends people of color and the poor consistently to the death chambers, to the flawed judicial system which places process over innocence.

This is Davis’ third reprieve from an execution date in a little over a year. Just a month ago, he was only an hour away from death when the U.S. Supreme Court intervened. Inexplicably, on Oct. 14, the court failed to take his appeal and within a day, Georgia had rescheduled his execution to Oct. 27.

The widespread mass support for Davis and the avalanche of criticism of the Georgia and U.S. justice system certainly has played a critical role in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals’ surprising decision. Davis’ lawyers have 15 days to file their briefs and then the state of Georgia has 10 days to respond. The appeals court will then schedule a hearing.

For Davis’ family and his advocates, this is another month to publicize, organize and mobilize hundreds of thousands of more people to take a stand for justice. □



## EDITORIAL

### Cumbre de tiburones

Mientras la crisis económica global se intensifica, l@s líderes de algunas de las economías capitalistas más grandes están intentando rescatar el sistema económico que les enriquece a ell@s y a su clase, empobreciendo a la gran mayoría del resto de la población.

El Presidente George W. Bush emergió del complejo Camp David a las afueras de Washington, D.C. el 18 de octubre, rodeado por el presidente francés Nicolas Sarkozy y el Presidente de la Comisión Europea José Manuel Barroso, para anunciar que EEUU sería anfitrión de una cumbre mundial de emergencia sobre la economía.

La fecha exacta para la cumbre mundial de emergencia acaba de ser anunciada para el 15 de noviembre en Washington, D.C. Lo que no se sabe en este momento es la hora y el lugar.

Lo que tenga lugar, es seguro que va a atraer a la oposición; quienes están luchando contra los efectos devastadores de la crisis capitalista en la vida de la gente trabajadora y oprimida.

L@s líderes capitalistas no estarán hablando sobre cómo ayudar a las millones de personas que han sufrido la pérdida de sus casas, sus empleos y sus ahorros en esta catastrófica crisis económica.

En vez de hablar de esto, hablarán sobre la mejor manera de coordinar sus rescates criminales de algunos de los bancos más grandes, de las corporaciones transnacionales, y de otras instituciones financieras. Esto solo acelera la tendencia hacia la consolidación capitalista — el monopolio — durante esta época de crisis.

Detrás de su aparente cooperación está la venenosa competencia y la competencia por los mercados que es un aspecto indeleble de imperialismo y que ha generado en el pasado guerras entre estos mismos países.

Lo único que verdaderamente une a l@s guardian@s de estos estados capitalistas es su miedo a que los tiempos difíciles vayan a renovar las luchas de la clase trabajadora en sus respectivos países.

Algun@s de l@s líderes imperialistas parecen estar respaldando la reestructuración de instituciones como el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial para hacerlos estar mejor preparados para proteger las ganancias de las corporaciones transnacionales y de los bancos.

De hecho, el modelo económico neoliberal tradicionalmente empujado por el FMI y el Banco Mundial ha contribuido al alcance global del presente fracaso.

Al hacer la asistencia a países en desarrollado contingente a la liberalización del mercado financiero, entre otras recetas políticas a tono del “Consenso de Washington”, el FMI y el Banco Mundial ayudaron a fomentar una creciente interconexión entre las rutas del capital financiero que supera las fronteras. Estas crecientes interconexiones son una razón por la cual la crisis se ha diseminado tan rápida y completamente, cruzando fronteras.

Al comentar sobre la necesidad de una reunión cumbre, Sarkozy dijo que hace falta “un capitalismo nuevo.” Dijo, “No deseamos que todo esto empiece de nuevo; deseamos que las lecciones sean aprendidas.”

Pero si hay una lección para ser aprendida, es que la crisis económica es inherente al modo capitalista de producción. No hay tal cosa como capitalismo sin crisis. La crisis está inscrita en cada elemento básico del sistema capitalista.

La anarquía en la producción capitalista asegura que la crisis de sobreproducción siempre ocurra. Mientras la producción sea emprendida con el objetivo de conseguir ganancias en vez de que la meta sea la de satisfacer las necesidades actuales, la próxima crisis estará inevitablemente a la vuelta de la esquina.

Esta crisis no es solamente el resultado de una falta de regulación en los mercados financieros ni por la corrupción en Wall Street. Es el resultado del capitalismo y no hay una solución permanente que no incluya la derrota del capitalismo y la creación del socialismo.

Al anunciar la reunión cumbre de emergencia sobre la crisis económica mundial Bush dijo, “es esencial que conservemos los fundamentos del capitalismo democrático.” Para miles de millones de trabajador@s y gente oprimida por todo el mundo que no tienen vivienda, ni empleo y que tienen hambre, se les hace más y más difícil ver exactamente qué en este podrido sistema de explotación lleno de crisis valga la pena salvar.

Cuando se reúnan l@s líderes imperialistas para avanzar sus ideas sobre cómo rescatar el sistema capitalista, pueden estar segur@s que trabajador@s militantes y activistas estarán allí para enfrentarles, list@s para avanzar sus propias ideas.

Para información sobre cómo involucrarse en manifestaciones contra los rescates de Wall Street [www.stopforeclosuresandevictions.org](http://www.stopforeclosuresandevictions.org). □

### Rep. John Lewis está en lo correcto

## El racismo de McCain-Palin está ‘jugando con fuego’

Por Fred Goldstein

El congresista Republicano John Lewis de Georgia, un africano-americano y ex líder de los derechos civiles, condenó a la campaña de McCain-Palin por “jugar con fuego” después de una serie de mítines contra Obama de su campaña en la cual: “Mátenlo,” “Córtenle la cabeza,” “terrorista,” y otras amenazas y epítetos racistas fueron gritados suficientemente cerca de los candidatos y de la prensa. A un camarógrafo africano-americano se le dijo “siéntate, muchacho” durante uno de los mítines de Palin.

Lewis acusó a la campaña de “sembrar odio y división” declarando que “Durante otro período en la historia, en un pasado no muy distante, hubo un gobernador del estado de Alabama llamado George Wallace quien también fue candidato presidencial. George Wallace nunca tiró una bomba. Nunca disparó una pistola, pero creó el clima y las condiciones que incitaron ataques viciosos. ...debido a esta atmósfera, cuatro niñas perdieron la vida un domingo cuando una bomba explotó en una iglesia de Birmingham en Alabama.

Lewis sabe muy bien de lo que habla, Él fue uno de los líderes de la marcha en 1965 por los derechos de l@s votantes en Selma, Alabama, y fue víctima de las tropas policíacas de Wallace quienes le pegaron rompiéndole el cráneo durante la marcha del “Domingo Sangriento” en el puente Edmund Pettus.

La campaña McCain-Palin exigió una disculpa. Lewis presentó una calmada respuesta sobre cómo pudo “haberlo dicho mejor,” pero no se disculpó. Y estuvo en lo correcto en no hacerlo. De hecho, unos días después, YouTube publicó un video de un reporte de noticias en Fairfield, Ohio, donde una efigie de Barack Obama aparecía con una soga en el cuello en frente de una casa de un racista, justo sobre un letrero de la campaña McCain-Palin.

La campaña McCain-Palin se ha tornado más derechista y racista desde que Palin se unió. No quiere esto decir que McCain no es racista. Su irrespetuosa referencia de Obama como “ese” fue una de sus formas para enviar un mensaje a su base derechista de que él es lo suficientemente racista para decirlo abiertamente en televisión nacional.

Los continuos ataques de las llamadas automáticas tratando de ponerle la etiqueta de “terrorista” a Obama son también un mensaje no muy sutil. Estos de mezclan con la campaña del liderazgo Republicano que promueve los rumores sobre Obama de que es musulmán mientras que los partidarios de McCain-Palin continuamente se refieren a él como “Barack Hussein Obama.” El punto de todo esto es el de alimentar el racismo anti musulmán y después adjudicárselo a Obama. Ciertamente las acusaciones de John Lewis de “sembrando las semillas de odio y división” dieron en el blanco.

Una de las características peligrosas de la campaña es la manera en que quienes están opuestos a Palin en el establecimiento capitalista han enmarcado su oposición. En su mayor parte se refiere a su “falta de cualificaciones”.

La pregunta de que si Palin o cualquier/a otr@ candidat@ presidencial o vicepresidencial burgués/a, está “capacitad@” para llevar a cabo las metas del imperialismo estadounidense es un problema que le concierne sólo a la clase capitalista. La pregunta para la clase obrera y l@s oprimid@s en cuanto a l@s candidat@s imperialistas no son sus cualificaciones sino sus políticas.

#### Mujer del Klan vestida con traje formal

De lo que los expertos capitalistas no quieren hablar es en relación a que Palin es la candidata de la ultra derecha. Palin ha inyectado energía al ambiente de linchamiento que se da en los mítines de la campaña electoral—tanto así que tiene reverbera-

ciones en la población negra de Alaska.

El 18 de octubre esto apareció en el titular de un reportaje de Prensa Asociada en Anchorage. “Los líderes negros de Alaska dicen no estar sorprendidos de ver a la Gobernadora Sarah Palin en el centro de la controversia inyectando la cuestión racial en la campaña presidencial.”

“Ella no tiene ninguna sensibilidad para con las minorías”, dijo el ministro bautista Rev. Alonzo Patterson, presidente de la Conferencia del Liderazo Negro de Alaska. El reporte siguió: “Muchos de los constituyentes negros de Palin dicen estar disgustados con las implicaciones raciales de la campaña. ‘De verdad ha sido como asistir a un mitin del Ku Klux Klan’, dijo Jarvis Odom, un reverendo de Anchorage. ‘La Gobernadora Palin está demostrando sus verdaderos sentimientos en un escenario nacional’.”

L@s negr@s de Alaska conocen a Palin de cerca. Palin se opuso a una proclamación endosando un festival que celebra la liberación de l@s esclav@s. Ella ha asistido a convenciones del Partido ultraderechista de la Independencia de Alaska, que considera la Guerra Civil en los EEUU como un “acto de agresión de los estados del norte”.

Cuando asumió la oficina de la gobernación ella rehusó renombrar a dos oficiales negros. En una reunión tensa con líderes negros para discutir los nombramientos, ella tomó una postura abiertamente hostil. “Su expresión facial se tensó” cuando vino la cuestión de diversidad. L@s alasqueñ@s negr@s constituyen un 4 por ciento de la población. L@s miembr@s de las tribus indígenas de Alaska constituyen un 18 por ciento de la población. Palin ha sido igualmente racista y colonialista hacia los pueblos indígenas.

Ella ha desafiado las decisiones judiciales federales que defienden los derechos indígenas de pescar para su subsistencia. Ella es la defensora de las industrias de pesca comerciales y deportivas que quieren expandirse hacia los territorios indígenas. Igualmente ella ha luchado en las cortes para quitarles a l@s indígenas sus derechos tradicionales de cazar para entonces mejorar la situación de los cazadores deportivos, una actividad que genera bastante dinero en Alaska.

Mientras ha sido forzada a reconocer los derechos de soberanía de las tribus, Palin rehúsa reconocer los derechos de las tribus a ejercer tal soberanía. Ella ha mantenido esta posición a pesar de las decisiones judiciales que rechazan sus políticas.

Palin fue llevada a la política de Alaska por los ultraderechistas, incluyendo a los activistas de la Sociedad John Birch, de corte fascista y del Partido de la Independencia de Alaska. Su comportamiento racista y derechista en la campaña presidencial es una continuación de sus orígenes políticos colonialistas, derechistas y a favor de los grandes negocios.

El establecimiento capitalista tiene todos los recursos para revelar todo esto y mucho más, pero se quedan callados y se restringen a palabrería superficial sobre “cualificaciones”. A la clase trabajadora multinacional le debe preocupar la dirección racista y derechista de McCain y Palin. Estas fuerzas ya están preparándose para interferir en la votación intentando influenciar la elección por intimidación y obstrucción. Si Obama gana la presidencia, la derecha y la ultraderecha ya no tendrán un Bush en la Casa Blanca. Su régimen les ha mantenidas quietos.

Las fuerzas que ahora rodean a McCain y especialmente a Palin, no van a desaparecer después de las elecciones. De lo contrario, están preparando una campaña en contra de Obama para después de las elecciones si él gana. Particularmente montarán una campaña haciendo de Obama el chivo expiatorio por la crisis económica y el sufrimiento que ésta causaría. L@s trabajador@s y l@s oprimid@s tenemos que mantenernos vigilantes y list@s para combatir estas fuerzas reaccionarias. □